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Report of State of Maine Registrations of Aliens.

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Report of State of Maine Registration of Aliens.

To: His Excellency, Lewis O. Barrows
Governor of Maine.

The registrations of adult aliens resident in the State of Maine directed by Executive Proclamation, dated June 14, 1940 has been completed by this department and a brief report of the results is submitted herewith.

1. History. Coincident with the unprecedented trend of events in Europe during the first five months of 1940, rumors and reports of subversive or un-American acts or declarations by certain persons residing in Maine communities came to the attention of the Executive and Military Departments. Following a conference of the responsible heads of these departments on June 14, 1940 it was decided that in order to formulate an equitable and intelligent policy for dealing with subversive influences and the threat of sabotage in important industries and utilities, the Military Department of the State should secure complete information concerning the numbers, nationality and location of aliens within the State. By Proclamation dated June 14, Governor Barrows designated the Adjutant General's Department as the supervising agency for the registration of aliens. Standard forms were prepared and furnished to the municipal officers of all of the State's cities, towns and plantations by the Intelligence Section, AGO. Municipal officers cooperated readily and the registration was accomplished in ninety days from the date of Executive Proclamation, being terminated on September 14, 1940.

2. Summary. More than 45,000 standard registration forms or typed reproductions were furnished to local registering officials. Total of completed forms returned, analysed, classified and filed in the office of the Adjutant General, 35,243. This effort accomplished at a cost to the State of Maine of approximately \$250.00 expended for printing, paper stock and postage and for the purchase of a steel filing case for the permanent retention and protection of the registration data. Clerical details were handled by employees of this office. Registration files are available for inspection to those so authorized.

3. Observations. The total registration, 35,343 represents approximately 4½ percent of the total population of the State (1930 census). Returns have been classified as to male and female, length of residence in the United States and nationality of origin. Files have been made alphabetically by name, town and county. Practically equally divided as to males and females. More than 8 percent have been in the United States 50 years or more. Approximately 85 percent have been in the United States from 10 to 50 years. Ten percent (10%) have been residents of Maine for periods under ten (10) years. The Canadian Provinces lead as the place of birth, with New Brunswick natives numbering 11,458 or approximately one-third of the total aliens in the state. Italy is second to New Brunswick in the nativity totals with 972. Finland third with 840. England and Wales fourth with 836. The total of British subjects is 28,555 or 81 percent of all aliens in Maine. Included in the totals are 694 American-born women who lost citizenship through marriage to aliens.

4. Conclusions. The registration effort revealed the possibilities of coordinated cooperative effort by the State and local governments in matters of State defense and general welfare. The data secured is already proving of value in various connections. The State program gave impetus to naturalization proceedings as evidenced by the expressions of the aliens themselves and by the record classes seeking citizenship through the courts at the present time.

A table presenting the totals by counties is attached.